

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented): A polarizing element comprising a reflective polarizing plate comprising a circularly-polarized light separation plate for separating incident natural light into reflected light and transmitted light both of which are composed of polarized light, a retardation plate, and a light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer interposed between the circularly-polarized light separation plate and the retardation plate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the circularly-polarized light separation plate comprises a cholesteric liquid crystal layer.

4. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 3, wherein the cholesteric liquid crystal layer is a liquid crystal polymer layer that is Grandjean-oriented on a transparent polymer substrate via an orientation film.

5. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 4, wherein the cholesteric liquid crystal layer has a superimposed structure of cholesteric liquid crystal layers different from each other in a helical pitch of the Grandjean orientation.

6. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the retardation plate is a quarter wavelength plate.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is made of a polymer containing uncolored transparent particles.

9. (Original): The polarizing element according to claim 8, wherein the polymer is an acrylic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of at least 100,000.

10. (Original): The polarizing element according to claim 8, wherein the uncolored transparent particles having an average particle diameter ranging from 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  are selected from inorganic particles and organic particles.

11. (Original): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is provided adjacent to the reflective polarizing plate.

12. (Previously presented): A liquid crystal display having a polarizing element comprising a reflective polarizing plate comprising a circularly-polarized light separation plate for separating incident natural light into reflected light and transmitted light both of which are composed of polarized light, a retardation plate, and a light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer interposed between the circularly-polarized light separation plate and the retardation plate.

13. (Previously presented): A method of manufacturing a polarizing element, wherein the polarizing element comprises a reflective polarizing plate comprising a circularly-polarized light separation plate for separating incident natural light into reflected light and transmitted light both of which are composed of polarized light, and a retardation plate, said method comprising interposing a light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer between the circularly-polarized light separation plate and the retardation plate.

14. (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is provided adjacent to the reflective polarizing plate.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is made of a polymer containing uncolored transparent particles.

17. (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the polymer is an acrylic polymer having a weight average molecular weight of at least 100,000.

18. (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the uncolored transparent particles having an average particle diameter ranging from 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  are selected from inorganic particles and organic particles.

19. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the reflective polarizing plate comprises a linearly-polarized light separation plate.

20. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the reflective polarizing plate is a circularly-polarized light separation plate.

21. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 20, wherein the circularly-polarized light separation plate comprises a cholesteric liquid crystal layer.

22. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 21, wherein the cholesteric liquid crystal layer is a liquid crystal polymer layer that is Grandjean-oriented on a transparent polymer substrate via an orientation film.

23. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 22, wherein the cholesteric liquid crystal layer has a superimposed structure of cholesteric liquid crystal layers different from each other in a helical pitch of the Grandjean orientation.

24. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the reflective polarizing plate comprises a linearly-polarized light separation plate.

25. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the reflective polarizing plate is a circularly-polarized light separation plate.

26. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the polarizing element includes at least one other adhesive layer and the at least one other adhesive

layer is not a light diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

27. (Currently amended): The polarizing element according to claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein the light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is provided directly on the circularly-polarized light separation plate.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the polarizing element includes at least one other adhesive layer and the at least one other adhesive layer is not a light diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

30. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the retardation plate is provided directly on the light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

31. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the polarizing element comprises two light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layers provided to the reflective polarizing plate.

32. (Previously presented): The polarizing element according to claim 1, wherein the polarizing element comprises three light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layers provided to the reflective polarizing plate.

33. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the polarizing element comprises two light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layers provided to the reflective polarizing plate.

34. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the polarizing element comprises three light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layers provided to the reflective polarizing plate.

35. (New): The liquid crystal display according to claim 12, wherein the optical element is

disposed behind a liquid crystal cell.

36. (New): The liquid crystal display according to claim 12, wherein the optical element is disposed between the backlight and a liquid crystal cell.

37. (New): A display having a polarizing element comprising a reflective polarizing plate comprising a circularly-polarized light separation plate for separating incident natural light into reflected light and transmitted light both of which are composed of polarized light, a retardation plate, and a light-diffusion pressure-sensitive adhesive layer interposed between the circularly-polarized light separation plate and the retardation plate.